

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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March 6, 2019

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21403

RE: Letter of Information: Senate Bill 410 – Health Insurance – Coverage for Insulin
– Prohibition on Deductible, Copayment and Coinsurance

Dear Chair Kelley:

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, submits this letter of information on Senate Bill 410, which would prohibit an insured from applying a deductible, copayment and coinsurance to insulin. As a policy, MedChi does not take positions on mandated benefits – legislative requirements requiring health plans to cover a specific health care service or treatment at a specific cost. This decision is based on the breadth of specialties within the membership of MedChi and the realization that each specialty would favor certain services or treatments.

However, the rising cost of insulin and the impact it has on our patients prompts us to submit this letter. Of the 30 million Americans diagnosed with diabetes, approximately \$6 million will require insulin. High insulin prices impact all patients. Uninsured patients paying cash for their prescriptions are exposed directly to high insulin prices. Insured patients are also directly impacted by high insulin prices when they are still in the deductible period, when the drug prescribed is not covered by their insurance, when a nonpreferred formulary status for a particular insulin product leads to a higher patient cost-share, or when a Medicare Part D beneficiary is in the “donut hole.”

The American Medical Association has been very outspoken on this issue, calling for action on the federal law. MedChi also remains very supportive of the bills being heard this Session to create a Prescription Drug Affordability Board and to require additional transparency and reporting by both pharmaceutical manufacturers and pharmacy benefit managers. Through these actions, we are hopeful that a resolution can be found for our patients.

Sincerely,

Gene M. Ransom, III
Chief Executive Officer